

***Perizoma affinitata* (Steph.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in north-west Kent**

A surprising visitor to my garden m.v. light at Dartford on 18.v.1999, was *Perizoma affinitata*. Its larval foodplant is red campion *Silene dioica* and its habitat is open woodland where *Silene dioica* grows, but this plant is a rarity in north-west Kent; it is shown as absent from this tetrad of the National Grid by Burton (*Flora of the London Area*, 1983) and by Philp (*Atlas of the Kent Flora*, 1982). Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent, Ent. Rec.* **84** (Supplement, p.81)), quotes for north-west Kent only one definite record – West Wickham, 14.v.1860.

Unless the moth has an alternative larval foodplant, it is unlikely that a breeding population could exist in this area or the adjoining part of Surrey which Collins (*Larger Moths of Surrey*, 1997) considers as outside the part of that county where the insect is present. If this Dartford specimen is a wanderer from elsewhere, it will probably have come from the Kentish Weald to the south, or from the adjoining part of Surrey to the south-west, from whence in recent years several colonising species have emanated, including *Chloroclysta siterata* Hufn. and *Aporophyla nigra* Haw. If the specimen were of local origin I would suspect it was from some other plant than *Silene dioica*.— B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

**The snakefly *Xanthostigma xanthostigma* (Schummel, 1832)
(Raphidioptera: Raphidiidae) reared**

The British snakefly fauna is rather restricted, comprising as it does a mere four species in a single family. The adults are immediately recognizable by virtue of their greatly elongated pronota, but are relatively infrequently seen as they appear to be predominantly arboreal and are only rarely recorded at light traps – a single female of *Phaeostigma notata* (Fabricius, 1781) was taken this way at Ashted Common, Surrey on 2 July 1999. The larvae live beneath the bark of standing and fallen timber where they are predatory on other insects, but, apart from apparent preferences for deciduous or coniferous trees, little is known of their precise requirements.

On 29 March 1999 several bags of spruce cones were collected from Thelsford Farm, Wellesbourne (VC 38 Warwickshire, grid reference SP 276577) in the hope of rearing some of the microlepidoptera that feed in such a situation. No moths were reared, but a single *X. xanthostigma* was. The plantation comprised almost entirely even aged (20-25 feet tall) Norway Spruce *Picea abies* with a single Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, and recently planted specimens of other *Picea* spp. adjacent to it. Fraser (1959, *RES Handbooks* Mecoptera, Megaloptera and Neuroptera) considered this species to be confined to willows *Salix* spp., which were absent from the site, and Plant (1994, *Provisional atlas of lacewings and allied insects of Britain and Ireland*) states that many recent records, including a larva, relate to oaks *Quercus* spp. Again these trees were absent from the immediate vicinity.

I thank Andrew Gardner and David Brown for arranging access to the site and providing additional details of the vegetation.— GRAHAM A. COLLINS, 15 Hurst Way, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 7AP.